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LITERATURE DEPARTMENT
of the
Woman's Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church,
No. 156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

The Mexicans in the United States.

A Question Exercise.

HYMN.

PRAYER. For a blessing on the meeting, and for minds receptive to the teachings of the hour.

RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE READING.

Leader—Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:

Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.—Is. 29:13, 14.

Response—Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the Lord, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us?—Is. 29:15.

Leader—Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay: for shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not? or shall the thing framed say of him

that framed it, He had no understanding?—Is. 29:16.

Response—Is it not yet a very little while, and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest?—Is. 29:17.

Leader—And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness.—Is. 29:18.

Response—The meek also shall increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men sh rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.—Is. 29:19.

Leader—Arise, shine; for thy light is come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.—Is. 60:1.

Response—For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee.—Is. 60:2.

All For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing. and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.—Is. 55:12, 13.

HYMN.

Leader—The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him, and His righteousness unto children's children.—Ps. 103:17.

All O that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men.—Ps. 107:8.

INTRODUCTION OF TOPIC—*Leader.*

[It is suggested that the Leader in a few words bring the subject to the attention of the hearers, and assign the leadership of the various sections to different ones. Use a map.]

SECTION I.

HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL.

Leader—In what part of the United States do the greater number of the Mexicans live?

Response—In New Mexico.

Leader—When did New Mexico become part of the United States?

Response—It was ceded to the United States in 1848, after the war with Mexico.

Leader—What was originally included in this tract of country?

Response—Arizona and Southern Colorado.

Leader—What is the size of New Mexico?

Response—The territory of New Mexico is equal in area to all of the New England States with New York and a part of New Jersey.

Leader—By whom was New Mexico settled?

Response—Originally by Indians, who were conquered by the Spaniards about three hundred years ago.

Leader—How did the Spaniards reach New Mexico?

Response—Landing on the shores of Mexico, and having despoiled that country, they sent expeditions northward in search of great cities and vast deposits of gold of which they had heard.

Leader—Were these reports true?

Response—Many of them doubtless were, although the Spaniards were disappointed in their search for them.

Leader—Describe the country.

Response—Its general elevation is about six thousand feet; mountains form its most important feature. Beautiful cañons may be found intersecting the mountains, and here and there are wonderful parks of surpassing beauty.

Leader—What of the climate?

Response—It is dry, clear and bright throughout the greater part of the year.

Leader—Is it a fertile country?

Response—Owing to the scarcity of rain, agriculture is limited to the valleys. In some of them the finest wheat is grown, and in some sections fruit of great size and beauty is produced. Great numbers of cattle and sheep may be supported here

Leader—What is the chief city of New Mexico?

Response—*Santa Fé*, which, *next to St Augustine*, is said to be the oldest city in the United States.

[Note.—In connection with this section use "Presbyterian Home Missions among the Mexicans," price 5 cents. Published at 156 Fifth Avenue, New York City. Also have, if possible, a concise h storical paper concerning the invasion of Mexico, and subsequently New Mexico, by the Spaniards.]

HYMN.

SECTION II.

THE PEOPLE.

Leader—What is to be said of the present inhabitants of the territory of New Mexico?

Response—Two entirely distinct races are found there, descendants of the Spanish and the Pueblo Indians.

Leader—What does Pueblo signify?

Response—It signifies *town*, or a collection of buildings, one built upon the roof of another, and rising to six or seven stories. These buildings have no doors, but are entered through an opening in the roof, which is reached by ladders.

Leader—Who are the Mexicans?

Response—The descendants of the aborigines and Spaniards.

Leader—How many Mexicans are there in the United States?

Response—It is estimated that the total number of Mexicans in New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and California is about two hundred and sixty five thousand (265,000).

Leader—What is the character of the people?

Response—They are amiable. but unambitious, ignorant and superstitious, and the larger part of the children are growing up without even an elementary education.

Leader—What of their religious belief?

Response—Forced by their Spanish conquerors to embrace the Romish faith, they have become slavish followers of the priests.

Leader—What sect has followers among the Mexicans?

Response—The Penitentes.

PRAYER.

[That light may be given to these people dwelling in darkness.]

[Note.—This section should be amplified by incidents—see *Home Mission Monthly*—illustrative of the character of the Mexicans.]

SECTION III.

Mission Work.

Leader—Where and when did Presbyterian mission school work among the Mexicans begin?

Response—In 1866, at Santa Fé; this school being followed in 1870 by one at Las Vegas; these schools were transferred to the Woman's Executive Committee (now Woman's Board) at the time of its organization in 1878.

Leader—How many schools among the Mexicans are under the care of the Woman's Board?

Response—Twenty in New Mexico, four in Colorado, and one in California.

Leader—How many teachers are employed?

Response—Forty-two, a number of these being Mexicans who have themselves been educated in the mission schools.

Leader—What kind of schools are the greater number of these?

Response—Most of them are day schools in the small Mexican towns, where the American teacher is often the only English-speaking person.

First Voice—There is, however, at Santa Fé, an academy in which Mexican girls are trained, not only in books but in industrial work, as sewing, cooking and the care of a home.

Second Voice—There is also a boys' boarding

school located at Albuquerque, New Mexico, in which the boys are given industrial training.

Leader—Do the schools afford ample accommodation for all who wish to be taught?

Response—They do not. There is a constant cry for more schools, more teachers, more Christian instruction from those whose eyes are partially opened, just emerging from Romanism, and densely ignorant of the Bible.

Leader—Have there been encouraging results of the work?

Response—Yes. Many have been brought to Christ, and some are teaching and preaching the Gospel to their own people.

Leader—What testimony as to the value of mission school work?

Response—(*a*) Rev. Mr. Craig, Synodical Missionary of New Mexico and Arizona, says the school is *the* important work; without it all attempts at church organization are useless.

(*b*) Mr. Powell, Sunday-school missionary, states if there were no mission schools, there could be no churches; Sunday-schools can only be established where our schools have opened the way.

(*c*) It is the universal testimony of travelers that on entering a Mexican home, one can tell at a glance if any of its inmates have attended the Industrial School at Santa Fé.

Leader—What does it cost to support a child for one year in a Mexican school?

Response—In the boarding schools it costs $50 and $75. In the day schools $25.

Some British soldiers were once asked how long it would take to carry a proclamation of their Queen to every subject in her dominion, and the reply was:

"About *eighteen months*."

How long is it since our Saviour said: "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."—MARK 16:15?
"More than *eighteen hundred years.*"

[Note.—Details of the Mexican school work should be given in connection with this section.]

CHAIN OF PRAYERS.

CLOSING HYMN.

All—The Lord bless thee, and keep thee.
The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee:
The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.—NUM. 6:24, 26.

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ever noticed how often joy and rejoicing are used in the Bible in describing the Christian's state?

"That your joy may be full," is a common expression. *Joy* is one of the fruits of the Spirit Paul admonishes the Philippians in these words, "Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say rejoice." You notice it is *always*—that means in viewing mission work as well as other things.

Notice just a few of the things we have to rejoice over. Saved ourselves through the blood of Christ; heirs of the kingdom through His grace; supported in trial by His strength; He has yet granted us, weak, sinful creatures as we are, the inestimable privilege of being co-workers with Him in the salvation of the world. To do our *best* work for Christ and His church our hearts *must* be filled with this love and joy which comes only from God. Do you not think David realized this truth, when, after his grievous sin, he says in the 51st Psalm, "Restore unto me the *joy* of Thy salvation . . . *Then* will I teach transgressors Thy way, and sinners will be converted unto Thee." He needed the joy in his own heart before he could bring it to others in its fullness.

When good news comes to us from the north and the west and the south-land, of souls converted and light brought into dark places through our missionaries, have we not a right to be glad and rejoice that the Lord has blessed *our* efforts through them?

Can we not, from this day on, realize and live up to the joyousness of our Christian service and the gladness of our mission work? Let us forget the briers and thank God and take courage for our future labors.

Let us look at the bright side. Let us talk of the glad things. Let us as Christian women, banded together, a happy, joyous army, "come up to the help of the Lord against the mighty," knowing that in His own good time success *shall* crown our efforts, and through all this broad land "He whose right it is SHALL reign."

JANET W. ALEXANDER.

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